

The Southerner.

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THE SOUTHERNER,
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AGRICULTURAL.



Agriculture is the chief foundation of a nation's power, as it not only furnishes man with food and clothing, but also with materials for the mechanic arts, and commerce.

Liquid and Solid Manure.

Charles Alexander, a careful and accurate farmer in Scotland, found that while 14 head of cattle would make six loads of solid manure, the liquid saturated seven loads of loam, rendering it of equal value. He had repeated the experiment for ten years, and found the saturated earth fully equal to the best putrescent manure. How many dollars worth are thus lost annually, by each of the million farmers of this country? And what is the aggregate loss in the whole country taken together?

The above is from the *Bridgeton Chronicle*, and is true to the letter. We know it by experience, and as we have often before asserted, the liquid manure of animals, if properly saved and applied, is worth more than their solid excrement. It should not be permitted, however, to run to cisterns, and there become cold, but should be received while it contains the animal-heat, upon some easily decomposable material, which is at the same time capable of receiving and retaining the ammonia liberated during the early decomposition of the urine. Pulverulent swamp muck, and all other organic matter sufficiently carbonaceous in its character, is suited to this purpose.

Working Farmer.

Practical Hints.

ROADS.

One of the important improvements after putting up fences, is the making of good roads on the farm. As a railroad in some new part of the country develops its resources and brings all sorts of improvements, so a good road to any part of the farm, adds as much to the value of that part as it would remove it nearer the barnyard. Count up how many times you drive a team to a corn field, half a mile from your barn, always loaded one way or the other, perhaps over a hill, at least through one or more mud holes; and you may estimate somewhat the value of this improvement. You suffer inconvenience enough, in a single harvest, in the upsetting or falling off your loaded grain, hindering your work, and making all hands cross, to pay for grading and smoothing half the way. Then think of the many loads of manure, which are, or should be drawn to that field, and how much your team would be relieved, and your work facilitated by a good hard bridge over that brook, instead of sinking your cart into the mud every time you have to pass it.

I might add a word about bars and gates.—There is no surer indication of a snug farmer, than a perpendicular bar post or a well hung gate. I must say, I have a particular antipathy to a dragging gate. I think you will find a few days of labor at odd spells, in repairing roads through the farm, will pay ten per cent. interest.

DRY WALKS.

Another matter worthy your attention is a dry and clean walk to your barn, and other out-buildings. You may think this a small matter, but there are few things in which the every day comfort of yourself and family are more concerned, than this. Look at that muddy hole by the gate between the house and barn, which must be waded an hundred times a week, through all the season. The house is painted, and all the buildings and fences are in good style, but whenever you walk about the yards in wet weather, you meet with filth which is in strange contrast with the style of the buildings and which appear all the worse for the contrast. Good taste is always consistent. Nice buildings, pleasant rooms, good carpets and other handsome furniture are in contradiction

to the walks out of doors, which load the boots with clay at every step. If you have no gravel bank or flag stones, make a plank road.—*Poughkeepsie Telegraph.*

Maxims for Farmers.

Do not sow your grain or cultivate your crop in any particular manner because your father did so. He may have followed in the footsteps of your grandfather, and agriculture was not as well understood then as now. "Prove all things and hold fast to that which is good." If not reject it and try another plan. Nothing of importance was ever yet gained without some risk. Experiment is the mother of science.

One acre well cultivated will produce more than two only scratched at and with far less trouble. What is worth doing at all, is worth doing well.

Do not have a superabundance of farming implements; but let what you have be of the best kind, and keep them well sharpened. A sharp tool will cut twice as much as a dull one, and do it so much better.

Never plow in wet weather, if you can avoid it. Besides doing injury to the crop, it impoverishes the soil. It will not rain always.

West Jersey Pioneer.

Wanted—A Farm School.

Among the mooted questions, which our best practical farmers, after a discussion of years, have been unable to settle to their own or anybody else's satisfaction, is the comparative value, for feeding purposes, of hay—cut and uncut. Now we want no better evidence of the necessity of Science, or system, applied to agricultural operations than is afforded by this unsettled question. The men who are claimed to be the only practical farmers,—the only farmers worthy of the name—have had possession of the land of Massachusetts, and of the cattle on its thousand hills, since the Pilgrims put foot on Plymouth—for 232 years—and they have raised and fed and slaughtered hundreds of thousands of bulls and bullocks and sheep and swine; but to this day are unable to tell how much feed it takes to make one pound of pork or beef, or what of all kinds of fodder—Indian corn, the general stand-by, alone excepted—is the most economical.

Now science, as advocated by this Journal,—not simply the science of the schools, but science, in its widest sense—would long since have settled this and other kindred questions. This science, which we preach and strive to practice, requires system in its every step; each operation on the farm, then, becomes an experiment; the farm is one vast laboratory; earth, air, and water, are the elements in which we deal; every hour is one of pleasing anxiety; every season brings with it its stock of doubts to solve, and produces its crop of knowledge gained. The farmer's life becomes one of constant and healthful interest; his mind, like his body, grows strong by labor; and he stands forth among his fellow-men at least their compeer in intellectual, as in physical vigor.

It is mean and cowardly to shrink from the hearing or the telling of wholesome truth; and though "Tray, Blanche and Sweetheart" may bark at us, we feel it in our inmost bones, and are not therefore afraid to declare it, that, despite our boasts,—despite our notions that "Agriculture is the noblest occupation of man"—we neither are, nor do we feel ourselves to be the equal of many of our fellow-men of other professions; and what is bad, too, they do not deem us their equals. Let the man, who doubts this, postpone his huffiness for a few moments; and put to himself the question "Of two sons, one eminent as a lawyer, commanding the admiration and respect of the country, by his abilities; the other a farmer, following in his father's foot-steps at the plow,—of which are you most proud? Whose opinion goes farthest with you? Who has the most weight in the State?"—The professional son, without doubt. 'Tis the same, if he was a pious and learned divine; or a well-read and skillful physician; or an ingenious and reliable mechanic.

There is not one of the leading occupations of men, that does not call into more active exercise the mental faculties of those engaged in it, than our own. These faculties, like our sinews, are strengthened by the exercise; and in this land, where "the mind is the measure of the man" and labor is honorable, he is most honored, whose mind most labors.

Fellow farmers, let us pray you meet this question on its merits, and as, from its importance, it deserves to be

met; and not with hoots and huffs. There exists no reason under heaven, why the farmer should not be the intellectual equal of the proudest statesman, or the most profound philosopher; and why he should not be thus elevated by the very necessities of his profession; except that we have voluntarily degraded agriculture to the level of any ordinary drudgery, by claiming for its pursuit no other qualifications than bodily strength, and a capacity to walk in the cider-mill-track of a settled routine. We have not only done this, but we have fiercely fought all, who dared to argue that we were wrong. We have doomed our children, too, to be drudges for life,—more automata; following machine-like the movements of some model;—instead of using the reason, which the Lord of the harvest implanted in the minds of husbandmen, as of others. And if, as wise and holy men have thought, the kind, if not the degree of happiness which heaven affords, depends upon the bent of our minds here; do we not rob those, who look up to us for instruction by precept and example, of what we can never return to them.

Let us now lug in the two sons again, for an illustration. Why is it that the one intended for a profession is sent to school and to college to be thoroughly educated, and the other is put on the farm, as soon as he has learned to spell with a k, and to imitate in his hand-writing the travels on paper of a half-drowned fly escaped from the inkstand?

It is because you know that education is necessary to the advancement of the professional man, and because you believe that it will not aid the farmer. This is a woeful error. Napoleon declared that of two armies, otherwise equal, that which was the most intelligent would surely be superior; and he proved it by dashing to atoms the machine-men of Frederick the Great; and all others built after the same model. If then an active enlightened mind is an aid to the soldier in the rude school of war, when brute force, on the part of the rank and file, is supposed to be alone necessary; why should it not advantage the plowman? And if the plowman, why not the sower and husbandman? Why not the farmer who is to direct the animal force on his farm?

Let farmers, then, accustom themselves to regard as a necessity, a good farm school, where their sons may be educated in all the branches, which will benefit them in their future pursuit; and enable them to elevate their calling, and themselves to a rightful position. Here, and here alone, can be carefully examined and accurately answered questions, like that with which this article commenced. Individuals may endeavor to settle these and similar questions. But few, that have the will, have also the pecuniary ability, the facilities and the perseverance required; and the results obtained will not be as satisfactory or as reliable, as those afforded by an institution, where system is known to direct every branch and every single operation.

Journal of Agriculture.

Plank Roads.

A writer in speaking of the benefits of plank roads observes that the farmer has what he never had before—a good road every day in the year—the same in all seasons, and can select for his travel days when he cannot work on the farm, taking, with great ease, in half the time, three times what he could formerly carry. His woodlands acquire a value that they never had before, from the ease with which his timber or wood is carried to market. His farm increases in value from 10 to 15 per cent. The wear and tear to his horses, harness, and vehicle, is reduced at least one-half, leaving a surplus in his pocket after paying tolls, which would otherwise have been spent on repairs. His produce can be carried to market with one-half the expense attendant upon carrying it over the old road, from the increase in quantity he is able to carry at a single load; and he can with the greatest facility avail himself of all advantages of churches, and neighborhood and friendly intercourse.

Farmers take one and a half solid cords of green wood to market, when formerly a half or three-quarters of a solid cord was considered a load; 80 bushels of rye and 100 of oats, when formerly they carried but 40 or 50 bushels. This is done at the rate of four miles an hour, whereas three miles, with a team, was considered rapid traveling when the road was in tolerable order. A manufacturer at Utica, N. Y., formerly transported from the rail-

road to his establishment, a distance of seven miles, ten bales of cotton per day, with two teams, which made each but one daily trip; but on the recently constructed plank road one team performs the journey twice, delivering fifteen bales per day. The average weight of a bale of cotton is five hundred pounds, therefore one team is equal to the work of 75 cwt., while on the old road it was equal to only 25 cwt. And these loads are considered fair average burdens, without the energies of the team being unfairly taxed.—*Chicago Dem.*

POLITICAL.

Letters.

From several distinguished gentlemen in reply to invitations to attend the Democratic Dinner of the 29th ult.

Fayetteville, July 24th, 1852.

GENTLEMEN: I wish most heartily it was in my power to accept your kind invitation to be with you on the 29th inst. to unite with the democrats of Edgecombe in raising still higher that National and Conservative Banner under which it has been their pride (and I may add, their glory,) to assemble and battle "with such uniform and consistent zeal."

Edgecombe has been more undivided, uniform and consistent in her support of sound republican principles, than any other county in the State; and it would have afforded me the highest pleasure to have partaken of her hospitality. I am truly sorry that professional engagements will compel me at that time to be elsewhere. But of those who may be so fortunate as to be present at the festival, none can feel more interest in the cause it is intended to promote than I shall. I feel deeply the importance of the crisis, and would do any thing in my power to promote its favorable termination. The general tendency of things for years past, has been unfriendly to the maintenance of republican principles and the perpetuity of our Union. Even the Southern people, the truly conservative portion of our wide-spread country, have most strangely yielded to the fascinations of party influence, and become blinded to their own just rights and the ruin that threatened them. Those who have had the steerage of the ship of State, with all sail crowded were running her upon those very rocks against which the early sages of the republic have warned us, and there seemed scarcely a possibility that the helm could be transferred to other hands in time to save us all from a common destruction.

But suddenly new and better hopes have sprung up, thinking men of all parties have become sensible of our peril, and with proper efforts we can have Franklin Pierce of New Hampshire placed at the helm. The days of Jeffersonian republicanism will be restored. For although that great apostle of liberty is no longer upon earth, he hath left behind him a chart plain and distinct, and by that chart will Franklin Pierce govern the course of the ship of State. Our country will then renew the pure days of her youth when "principles not men" was her motto. The corruptions of party intrigue will be no more seen. And with the experience we have so lately and so dearly bought, it will be long before the American people will be again seduced from the plain path of safety and of duty.

One of the most alarming signs for the perpetuity of our free institutions, is the great love of the multitude for military parade and their proneness to support military men for the Presidency of the United States, and that without any regard to other qualifications for that high office. Thinking men of all parties agree in deploring this, and in predicting the dangers with which it is fraught. And if there were nothing else to mark the democratic party as one of principle and not of expediency, the fact that it has never yet brought forward a candidate for the Presidency, whose main recommendation was his military fame, fully establishes it.

Genl. Jackson was the first man ever brought forward by any party for the Presidency of the United States, upon the strength merely of his military renown. The Republican party had then a great number of the most accomplished civilians in her ranks. Indeed so strong had she become, that even the leading federalists affected to have given up farther contest against her principles, and even to have adopted them. In this state of things, General Jackson was brought forward by the federal party, not for the purpose of electing

him but to create confusion, throw the election into the House and elect Mr. Adams. The people's ticket was in this State a sub-artifice in aid of the main plot. All succeeded. Adams was elected, the People's ticket prevailed and Democracy received in North Carolina its first dangerous wound. But so thoroughly were all parties disgusted by John Quincy Adams during his one term, that almost by common consent Genl. Jackson, whose political principles were then unknown, was elected to succeed him. He soon however proved his patriotism and just appreciation of republican principles, by administering the government upon them. His glorious democratic administration will never be forgotten. The federalists who had brought him forward, not only deserted but denounced him in terms of the most unqualified bitterness, but in spite of their resistance he was again elected and but for his own moderation and unwillingness to set a dangerous precedent could have been elected a third time. Aye as often as he had chosen for as long as he lived.

Again in 1840, with Clay and Adams and Webster, and a number of other talented, approved and long-tried statesmen in their ranks, availability, that no-principle principle, induced them to bring forward Genl. Harrison, with his charger, sword, epaulettes and spurs, to fight his way into the Presidential mansion. They succeeded by calling in aid of General Harrison's military fame, the most shameful misrepresentations of the acts of his opponent, and a system of humbuggery altogether disgraceful to an enlightened people.

Again in 1848, with the most able of their party that they ever had among them, availability induced them to bring forward Genl. Taylor and with like success. Had the Democratic party consented to sell their principles for availability and taken up Genl. Taylor, could they not have succeeded? No! It is true they would have elected Genl. Taylor, and a different set of men would have had the distribution of the leaves and fishes; but democracy would not have succeeded. Its principles would have been buried in the dust; those principles for the preservation and perpetuation of which for the good of mankind, the Great Being above us has so long watched over and prospered our country.

And now in 1852, with still more reliance upon military glare and the folly of the American people, they bring forward General Scott.

Since their first success in 1796, in the election of the elder Adams, they never have succeeded but by bringing a military man into the field, either to make a division or fight the principal battle. Apart from his military fame, Genl. Scott is neither popular nor qualified. On the contrary, is positively unpopular and it has been hitherto admitted even by those who now support him that able as he is as a General he is totally unfit for the Presidency.

If with these facts before them and all their dear bought experience, and the circumstances under which Genl. Scott is brought forward, the American people shall be so soon again gulled and elect Genl. Scott, then will the problem be sadly solved whether or no man is fit for self-government.

A word in conclusion of one whose name is dear to North Carolina and the country at large, but especially so to Edgecombe to whom he gave his best service in life and the strongest manifestation of his love in death. I knew him well and greatly esteemed him, and were I with you on this occasion I would over his ashes utter this sentiment;

Louis D. Wilson: A good man and a patriot. He lived for his country and laid down his life in her service.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen, your obliged and obedient servant.

RO. STRANGE.

Messrs. Charles Harrison, W. S. Battle, D. Ferguson, W. L. Qualls, C. C. Bonner, Committee.

Fayetteville, July 26th, 1852.

GENTLEMEN: Your highly esteemed favor reached me yesterday, communicating the information that the Democratic Party in the vicinity of Rocky Mount propose having a "public festival," at that place on the 29th of July, and that you have been appointed a committee to invite some of "the distinguished gentlemen of the State to unite with you (us) of Edgecombe in raising still higher that national Banner under which it has been hitherto (our) your pride to assemble and battle."

You honor me much in paying me

the compliment of an invitation to participate in the festival. I regret to say, however, that I have appointed to address the people on that very day at a point on the Cape Fear about 30 miles from Fayetteville. My compliance with your kind invitation is thus defeated by a previous engagement. It is to me a matter of more regret and disappointment than it can be to you. The people of old Edgecombe are so distinguished for their uniform and noble devotion to the sacred principles of the Democratic Party, that I should rejoice to mingle with them on so interesting an occasion. I sincerely trust that before the campaign closes it may yet be in my power to visit Edgecombe. Our cause is as we believe the cause of the country. It is worthy of every honorable effort to promote its triumph. May we all so act our part that the result may not reproach us for apathy and indifference. With sentiments of highest respect, your ob't serv't.

J. C. DOBBIN.

Messrs. Charles Harrison, W. S. Battle and others.

Williamston, July 26, 1852.

GENTLEMEN: By the last mail I received your invitation to be present at a public meeting at Rocky Mount on 29th instant, to assist the Democrats of Edgecombe in raising still higher the Democratic banner. It would afford me pleasure to be with you, but I have promised to address the people of Bertie at Windsor on 30th, and therefore will not be able to attend your meeting. My aid, however, would be barely felt in that solid, bold and intrepid column which Edgecombe, the Star of the East, has always presented to the attack of Federalism in all its forms; a column which knows no evasions and resorts to no duplicity in battling with political adversaries. Our standard bearer in the State, Gov. Reid, speaks the same language East and West; is particular to have his opinions known and it seems has to be particular to have the opinions of his opponent also known as they progress West. The 7th resolution of the Wing State Convention, and the course of the nominee of that Convention, is a striking illustration of Whig party tactics: "If amendments are to be made to the Constitution they should be made by a Convention," says the resolution. "I am for submitting the question of Convention to the people," says Mr. Kerr, and when asked "I will vote for Convention, and the voice of a bare majority of the people ought to control," although our Constitution requires two-thirds of the General Assembly to call a Convention, the object of which was to secure the East against the oppression of a mere numerical majority. Why resort to this deceptive mode of arguing for a Convention, the result of which is to deprive the East of the checks and guarantees of the Constitution, and all to obtain a Whig party ascendancy in the State? But this is perfectly consistent with the course of the Whig nominee for President: "I will write no letters," says Genl. Scott, "before the Convention, but afterwards I will be explicit on the slavery question." After nomination he says "I accept the nomination, with the resolutions annexed." Exceedingly explicit is this!! Contrast the frankness of Genl. Pierce with this: "I accept the nomination. The principles embraced in the resolutions command the approbation of my judgment." It is however but another illustration of the fact that the Whig party have no confidence in the intelligence of the people. This State Convention question is an alarming question when we find eastern Whigs so ready to sacrifice the interests of their part of the State at the behest of party. But every sign now indicates the triumphant re-election of Gov. Reid, if the Democratic party do their duty. May I not then earnestly urge upon the Democrats of Edgecombe the importance of polling every vote in that county? I know that your majority being so large, and with probably no local contest to excite, many may not feel the necessity of energy. But my friends we are admonished that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." Let it be seen that Edgecombe always keeps the beacon-light blazing in front of the column, and we shall have the proud gratification to see our adversaries dispersed by the Old Guard of Edgecombe, and our cherished principles vindicated.

I have the honor to be very respectfully your ob't serv't. ASA BIGGS.
Messrs. Charles Harrison, W. S. Battle, D. Ferguson, W. L. Qualls, C. C. Bonner, Committee, Rocky Mount, N. C.